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Middle East Situation Report #38  
(as of 1100 EST, 16 February 1984)

LEBANON/SYRIA

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[redacted] the Shia Amal militia were consolidating their positions south of the airport and moving south toward Damur. Beirut is quiet and the LAF 8th Brigade repulsed last night's attacks without US Naval gunfire support. [redacted]

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[redacted] According to press reports, the plan, which was to be presented to the Syrians this morning in Damascus by Saudi mediator Hariri, calls for:

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- Abrogation of the 17 May Accord.
- Phased and simultaneous withdrawal of Syrian and Israeli forces over a 60-90 day period.
- The establishment of security arrangements in Lebanon in areas not occupied by Syrian or Israeli forces through the joint GOL/NSF security committee.
- Prompt start of talks between GOL, Druze, and Shia opposition on power sharing.
- Readiness of Gemayel and Christians to begin talks on changes in the government's structure.
- Replacement of the MNF by a UN force.
- Assurance of the security of southern Lebanon.

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Yesterday, Druze leader Junblatt continued to call for Gemayel's resignation saying the abrogation of the 17 May agreement would not affect Junblatt's position. [redacted]

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[redacted] 370  
soldiers of the 4th Brigade and the rangers had been evacuated  
from their positions south of Ad Damur yesterday. About 1,200  
remain. Their destination is apparently Juniyah. [redacted]  
[redacted]

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The Lebanese Forces militia in the Ad Damur area have  
reportedly been harassing Shia soldiers of the 4th Brigade and  
insisting that the Brigade leave its equipment behind. [redacted]  
[redacted]

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Press reports indicate that the Druze have seized control of  
the Lebanese Forces barracks in the town of Al Mushraf, at the  
mouth of the Damur River. This move and the departure of the  
4th Brigade significantly weakens the Christian Lebanese Forces  
militia position in the Kharrub region. Isolated in the Kharrub  
and surrounded by the Druze, the Lebanese Forces and the  
Christian inhabitants of the area are likely to panic. They will  
probably put pressure on Gemayel to reach some accommodation with  
the Druze. [redacted]

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IRAN-IRAQ WAR

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-- The current Iranian action probably is an attempt to gain  
better tactical positions prior to launching Tehran's  
long-awaited major offensive. As of early this week,  
Iranian forces on all fronts appear to be continuing  
preparations for what promises to be the largest  
offensive of the war. We anticipate that Iran's main  
efforts will center on Mandali and Al Basrah. [redacted]

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PERSIAN GULF

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[REDACTED]

UAE officials have told our Embassy that the Iranians are fortifying Larak Island in the Persian Gulf for a military operation against shipping or offshore oil installations.

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-- [REDACTED]

Kuwait has begun stockpiling crude oil in Kuwaiti-owned facilities in Europe, according to Embassy sources.

-- The move probably reflects Kuwait's desire to establish a hedge against a temporary closure of the Strait of Hormuz. Saudi Arabia has also been stockpiling oil in storage facilities in the Far East and the Caribbean.

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